

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A skin massage device (10);

the device comprising a handset (100; 200; 300) connected to a machine body; said handset (100; 200; 300) in turn comprising a chamber (102; 202) closed by a deformable membrane (103; 203) which at least partly adheres to a patient's skin (S) by virtue of a vacuum generated in said chamber (102; 202) by a vacuum generating device (12);

wherein the device (10) comprises means (13) for producing a variable vacuum in said chamber (102; 202) to deform said membrane (103; 203) thereby lifting, folding, compressing, and smoothing the patient's skin (S);

wherein said membrane (103) comprises a central portion (103b) having a plurality of holes (103c) for lifting a portion (S1) of the skin (S); and two lateral portions (103d, 103e), thicker than said central portion (103b), which are movable by the vacuum generated inside the chamber (102); ~~and~~

wherein each of said lateral portions (103d, 103e) has two projections (103f, 103g);

wherein the central portion (103b) extends transversely across a surface of the membrane (103) between the two lateral portions (103d, 103e); and

wherein the plurality of holes (103c) of the central portion (103b) are aligned and spaced from one another between the two lateral portions (103d, 103e).

Claims 2-8 (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) A device (10) as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said membrane (103; 203) is disposable separately from said device.

Claims 10 - 12 (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) A device (10) as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said handset (100; 200; 300) has means for activating and programming said device.

14. (Previously presented) A device (10) as claimed in Claim 13, wherein said means (11) for activating and programming said device is programmable to perform pulsating treatment cycles of a patient's skin (S) as determined by an operator.

15. (Previously presented) A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of said lateral portions has through holes by which to lift and treat the skin.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the central portion (103b) has one central hole and two lateral holes which are aligned and spaced from one another between the two lateral portions (103d, 103e).

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 19, wherein the central portion (103b) and the two lateral portions (103d, 103e) are substantially aligned with one another.

21. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the two lateral portions (103d, 103e) extend transversely across a surface of the membrane (103) and the two projections (103f, 103g) of each of the two lateral portions (103d, 103e) are spaced transversely from one another.

22. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 21, wherein the projections (103f, 103g) of the lateral portions (103d, 103e) are substantially dome-shaped.

23. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the central portion is convex with respect to the chamber (102; 202) and the lateral portions (103d, 103e) are concave with respect to the chamber (102; 202).

24. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 23, wherein the projections (103f, 103g) of the lateral portions (103d, 103e) form knuckles over the concave lateral portions (103d, 103e).